

Congressional Record

United States of America

proceedings and debates of the 109^{th} congress, second session

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006

No. 74

House of Representatives

called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on

> J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 min-

TRADE DEFICIT AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about a statistic that came out last week that says a lot about the direction of the United States of America, and that was the trade deficit for April. That is the deficit between what the United States exported and what we imported from overseas. Essentially, when we run a deficit, we are borrowing money to buy things that are made overseas. That has long-term implications in terms of

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was U.S. indebtedness to foreign nations, particularly China which is growing more rapidly than our debt to any other nation, and the loss of the jobs that comes from that. The trade deficit for April was 63.4 billion jobs.

Now, the Commerce Department, the Bush Commerce Department likes to tout our trade policy and talk about how it creates jobs, and they say for every billion dollars of trade, you create 20,000 jobs. Well, if you are running a deficit, then that must mean you are running a negative number in terms of the creation of jobs. In this case, that would be about 12 million jobs lost in 1 month's trade deficit. Three million of those are manufacturing jobs. We are outsourcing all of the United States industrial base to China. That also has national security along with economic implications in the future. But down at the Bush White House and at the Bush Commerce Department and the Bush appointees at the Federal Reserve. they say this is great. It shows how strong our economy is that the world is willing to finance our borrowing to buy things that they make that we used to make that we don't make anymore.

Now, what world do they live in? Americans are losing jobs. Wages are being driven down. They think that is good actually. The President did have an economic adviser last year who said the exported jobs was just the greatest new manifestation of the benefits of trade, outsourcing of jobs. So they are totally sanguine about a \$63.4 billion trade deficit, about the fact that we are borrowing \$2 billion a day from foreign countries to buy things made elsewhere in the world. That is not a sustainable model. It now exceeds over 6 percent of our total gross domestic product. That is worse than Argentina before they collapsed in a heap a few years ago. This is not sustainable. It is ultimately going to lead to a crash in the dollar and a huge run-up in interest rates here in the United States that make the Jimmy Carter interest rates of 16 and 17 percent look like a bargain.

But the Bush administration says, no, it is working just fine. It is working just fine for a bunch of corporate CEOs and a few boards of directors and other preferred people in this country. It is not working well for American workers, and the American consumers are getting a Faustian bargain here. We may see some cheaper prices in the short term, but long term things are going to get much more expensive.

It also reflects a failed or, let us say, a lack of any energy policy on the part of the United States of America. \$24 billion of the April deficit was due to oil imports. So while we fund Saudi Arabia and other countries that harbor and have harbored and created terrorists that attack the United States of America with billions of dollars every month, the Bush administration, totally enthralled to Big Oil, wants to continue to just say, no, let the markets, let Big Oil solve our energy problems. After all, they are making a pile of money. ExxonMobil made \$100 million a day last year. Things are working really well in the energy markets. Yet, if we look a little south to Brazil, 30 years ago when there was an oil crisis, Brazil said they were going to become energy independent, and they have. If the people of Brazil can become energy independent, I believe the people of America could if we were well led, if we had an energy policy that determined to lead us toward energy independence instead of being in hock to Big Oil and OPEC and Saudi Arabia and other hostile interests around the

We could do much better for ourselves and we could have long-term stable and more affordable energy, but it is going to require an investment. It is also going to require standing up to Big Oil. Short term, we have got to take on the price gouging and the profits and the manipulation of markets by

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Big Oil and bring the price down while we transition to a more sustainable model, and then we have got to invest in the new technologies that will lead us to energy independence and efficiency.

But, sadly, the Republican majority and the Bush White House have no interest in taking America in that direction. The petroleum industry is a very, very generous campaign contributor. Eighty-five percent of their massive contributions out of that obscene profit flowed to the Republican Party and the Bush White House last year, and they are not going to take them on. Well, we should take them on for the interest of America and the American people. And I tell you, this is one Member, and I believe there are other Members on this side and even a few on that side who are willing to take them on. We have to deal with the trade deficit, and part of that is getting a sustainable energy policy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker protempore (Mr. Culberson) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Chief of Staff, Office of the Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, creator of the universe, we come to You today believing that You hear our prayers and are concerned about the details of our lives. We thank You, O God, for the right to lift up Your holy name in this setting.

Today we not only seek blessings from Your omnipotent hands, we seek to honor You in thought, word and deed.

As we open this legislative week, we ask that Your sovereign presence fill this Chamber and equip the Members of this august body with wisdom beyond their years, courage to do great things, and a deep sense of satisfaction in honorably serving our Nation.

Grant each Member good health, vibrant faith and hope that their tireless labors will one day achieve a grand purpose.

Bless their families, especially those battling illness. Bless their staff members as they labor long hours far from home. Bless those who so willingly protect and support all who serve on Capitol Hill. And, Dear Lord, bless our Nation's noble warriors and their leaders at home and abroad, on land, at sea, and in the air.

I pray in the name that is above all names. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 432.

MATRICULA CONSULAR CARD

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when Generalissimo Fox leaves office this year, the illegal Mexican citizens in America better hope they find someone who cares as much about them as he does. Since the Sly Fox cannot take care of his own people, he makes his problem our problem.

He has encouraged their careers by sending them north to the United States so they can have a career; and when they had no ID in our foreign land, his answer, the matricula consular card, a Mexican ID card for illegals in the United States.

Then this Fox of Mexico started creating a vast network of American businesses and banks that will accept these cards so his illegals can open up a U.S. bank account and wire money home, that is right, back to Mexico.

Ironically, even Mexican banks do not accept this matricula card. But U.S. banks do, and they help illegal immigrants send home more than \$12 billion every year, money that the United States Government ought to consider charging a 10 percent fee on, keep some of that money in America.

Mr. Speaker, be that as it may, the banks and businesses that do this are doing nothing more than encouraging illegal entry into the United States.

The Mexican Government may be controlling the United States immigration policy. In fact, since they are issuing IDs for people in our country

from their country and making sure it is accepted, it is just like American Express, the matricula card is everywhere you want to be, without that yearly fee.

That's just the way it is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

AMENDING RECLAMATION PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1992

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4013) to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4013

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. CONJUNCTIVE USE OF SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER IN JUAB COUNTY, UTAH.

Section 202(a)(2) of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–575) is amended by inserting "Juab," after "Davis,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Renzi) and the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. Herseth) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4013, introduced by Congressman Chris Cannon, allows Juab County in Utah to become eligible for specific water supply funding under the Central Utah Project.

Currently, there are five counties in the State that are eligible to receive such funding, and this legislation adds Juab to this list. Water is scarce in southern Utah, and allowing Juab County to receive these funds will help maximize surface water flows and groundwater sources through what is known in the water arena as conjunctive use.